

From: Archon de Gaul
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/24/02 12:50am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I would like to point out that Microsoft has entered into "consent decrees" in the past and has been proven to have broken its' agreement(s) on a number of occasions. I refer to the preceeding Microsoft/Caldera case, the Microsoft/Netscape case, the Microsoft/Sun case, the Microsoft/IBM case, et. al. I am unhappy with the way the current DOJ staff have, in my opinion, dropped the ball in this case. I specifically refer to the fact that, when the appeals court remanded the case and struck the verdicts of Judge Penfield, some issues that, in my opinion, should have been re-addressed include: the potentially-illegal tying of browser software, the equally-potentially-illegal (hijacking) extension of standards (re: Sun/Java) and the strong-arming of potential competition. (Dell, Gateway, IBM, etc's complaints that MS won't allow them to customize the desktop with certain icons, browsers or operating systems.) There has been an incredible amount of written material generated by these cases, so I won't spend the time regurgitating it here, but I would simply like to ask that the DOJ do what it originally set out to do under another, admittedly less pro-big-business, administration and represent 'JUSTICE'. What Microsoft does to competition and the free market is not justice, it is bullying. Represent the people and protect the free market.

As a small business owner, I need the barriers to entry lowered in a number of areas just to have a chance to survive in the waters with the other big fish. I believe businesses like mine have something to offer the people of the world and I believe just as fervently that enormous monopolies like Microsoft squelch any chance people like me have to innovate. Without giving up my patents and ideas to bigger fish to market and develop for me, I can't hope to penetrate even a regional market.. but any potential "big fish" I might ally myself with are afraid of repercussions with Microsoft. This sort of Mafia-style business practice can't be tolerated in this day and age. Please do the right thing; don't throw in the towel.

Thank you in advance,
Stewart Davis
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